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St/I/R

20 April 1955

THROUGH: Chief, D/S
Chief, S/OM

The Place of CEMA within the Scale of Priorities.

REFERENCE:

25X1A6a

This Branch advises strongly against scaling down of the priority for CEMA for the following reasons:

1. The evidence offered in the referenced referendum for the assertion that CEMA has been playing a minor-key role within the ORBIT is not convincing. Too little is known about its activities that any value judgement could be made at this time. The scarcity of intelligence information regarding this subject may, at least in part, have been due to the low priority given to it in the past. The present priority may reduce this significant gap in existing intelligence.

2. Even if it were correct that the role played by CEMA and its achievements have, thus far, not been very impressive, this would not be a cogent reason to scale down the priority. There cannot be any doubt that great efforts are being made by the USSR to remove the shortcomings in inter-Satellite cooperation, mentioned in the referenced memorandum, and, beyond that, to coordinate the various national plans and to move toward integration of the economies of all Orbit countries. This is a development of greatest interest for U.S. intelligence. Since there are indications that CEMA will become more and more involved in the implementation of this policy and perhaps, play a leading role in it, the efforts to get better information on its activities should, therefore, be increased rather than reduced.

3. CEMA and Bloc integration is a subject to which this Branch has been devoting and will devote a relatively large part of its time and intelligence research. Any scaling down of the priority would render its work more difficult.

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